

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 22 | Humidity 57%

Partly Cloudy

Sensex 72,664 | Nifty 22,055 | Gold 72,722 | Silver 84,984 | Dollar 83.55 | Euro 90.13 | GBP 104.63

Rs 25 lakh set aside for footpath maintenance in each ward, but there are hardly any pedestrian-friendly stretches in city. And reason officials give for shoddy job is: Lack of funds

WATCH YOUR STEP

Encroachment, lack of maintenance biggest problems

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite the allocation of Rs 25 lakh per ward for footpath maintenance in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's budget, civic activists complain that officials complain of lack of funds for taking up work in wards. Year after year, the situation of footpaths in the city gets worse. At some places, footpaths are completely absent and in some parts, they are poorly maintained. The reasons for poor accessibility and maintenance are also commonly known to the public at large but civic officials have failed to address them.

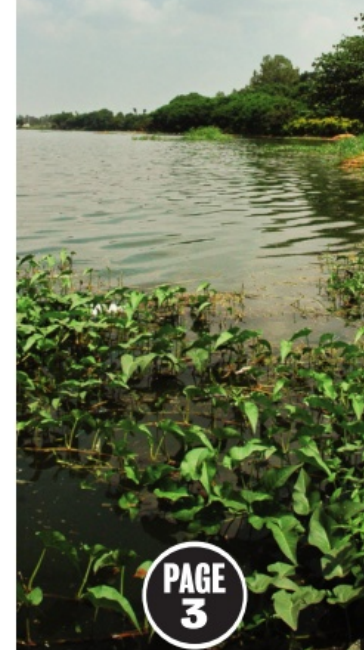
Primary reasons hindering public access to footpaths remain poor maintenance, encroachment by vehicles, and occupation by street vendors. Despite the residents and civic activists raising their voices,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>



LOOK-A-LAKE

Technical glitch in city's lake monitoring system?



PAGE 3

The new GRAND i10 NIOS



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Test Drive the Hyundai Grand i10 Nios before you decide on any car



LED daytime running lamps (DRLs)



Modern Refreshing Grey Upholstery



6 Airbags Standard



Tilt Steering



8.89 cm (3.5") Speedometer with multi information display



USB Charger



Wireless phone charger



Electronic Stability control (ESC)

Edge over Competition				
Features		Hyundai Grand i10 NIOS	Maruti Suzuki Swift	Maruti Suzuki iGNIS
		Asta	Zxi	Alpha
New Age Design	Sharkfin Antenna	Yes	No	No
	Roof Rails	Yes	No	Yes
	Unique C Pillar Branding	Yes	No	No
Intelligent Technology	Auto Headlamp	Yes	Yes	No
	Emergency Stop Signal	Yes	No	No
	20.25 cm (8") Touch Screen Infotainment with Smartphone Connectivity	Yes	17.78 Cm	17.78 Cm
	Wireless Charger	Yes	No	No
	Front USB charger Type C	Yes	No	No
	Cruise Control	Yes	Yes	No
	Eco Coating Technology	Yes	No	No
Outstanding Safety	Side & Curtain Airbag	Yes	Only Dual Front	Only Dual Front
	TPMS highline	Yes	No	No
Splendid Interiors	Rear AC Vents	Yes	No	No
	Rear Power Outlet	Yes	No	No
	Cooled Glovebox	Yes	No	No
Peace of Mind	3 Yr/100,000 km Standard Warranty	Yes	2 Yrs/40k Kms	2 Yrs/40k Kms
	Free Road Side Assistance	3 Years	2 Years	2 Years

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Features

Superiority against iGNIS

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Features

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 K-Pop evening



Get ready to groove to the beats of K-Pop at the electrifying K-Pop Eve presented by Partyvorous! Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of Korean pop music and dance the night away with fellow K-Pop enthusiasts. Featuring thrilling performances, exciting dance battles, and K-Pop trivia, this event promises an unforgettable experience for fans of all ages.

Where: Buffalo Wild Wings, Indiranagar
When: May 18, 3.30 pm onwards

02 Dance away

Embark on a journey into the enchanting world of Bharatanatyam with our exclusive workshop designed for dance enthusiasts of all levels! Delve into the rich heritage and intricate movements of this classical Indian dance form under the guidance of experienced instructors.



Where: SmallWorld, Koramangala
When: May 19, 11 pm onwards

03 Get creative!



Unleash your creativity in a unique artistic experience blending coffee and canvas. Join in for an exclusive "Paint with Coffee" event. Don't miss this opportunity to indulge your senses and awaken your artistic flair with the enchanting world of coffee painting.

Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: May 19 to May 26

Education controversies in 2024

From SSLC to CET, examination irregularities stir turmoil; integrity of evaluation processes questioned amidst ongoing uncertainty

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The year 2024 will be etched in memory due to a string of controversies that rocked the education sector in Karnataka. Rarely has there been a year with such successive controversies, and the repercussions are likely to reverberate for years to come.

The SSLC exam fallout

One of the most recent controversies revolves around the SSLC exams. Education department officials disclosed that the initial results showed a dismal pass rate of 53 per cent. To inflate this figure, the officials resorted to awarding grace marks, ultimately boosting the pass rate to 73 per cent. This admission raises serious questions about the integrity of past exams and whether similar malpractices were previously overlooked or concealed. Educationist D Shashi Kumar raises a thought-provoking query, stating, "This statement prompts us to ponder whether previous exams yielding favourable results may have involved malpractices and whether the education department is now acknowledging past instances of malpractice."

CET controversies unfold

The grace marks debacle extends beyond the SSLC exams to this year's Common Entrance Test (CET). Despite assurances from the State Government regarding eliminating out-of-syllabus questions in KCET 2024, post-exam



Parents of SSLC students checking the results of their kids last week

reports surfaced highlighting the inclusion of such questions. Students and stakeholders voiced concerns about these discrepancies, calling for corrective measures like grace marks, question removal, or even a fresh exam. An Expert Committee was formed to investigate these irregularities, which traced out-of-syllabus questions back to deleted chapters from the recent syllabus revision. Now, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will remove out-of-syllabus questions from the assessment and focus solely on the remaining questions. Students' CET marks will be recalculated based on the revised assessment, with grace marks allocated for incorrect solutions. Despite calls for a re-examination, logistical constraints and upcoming exams preclude such an option.

Ongoing uncertainty

While preparations for the new academic year are underway, students awaiting results for grades five, eight, and nine face uncertainty. The Supreme Court's intervention halted the result process for Board examinations in these standards. Approximately 30 lakh students and 70 lakh stakeholders are affected by this suspension, adding to the turmoil in the education sector. Prior to these controversies, allegations surfaced regarding rushed evaluation processes leading to errors in answer scripts. While government officials defended the evaluation's fairness, concerns linger about the quality of the assessment and distribution of answer sheets. Widespread complaints from schools highlighted issues like inadequate corrections, incorrect

marking, and resulting confusion among students and teachers. These challenges underscore the need for a thorough review of evaluation protocols and teacher workload management.

Ratna Kumari, a teacher, said, "The spate of education controversies in 2024 underscores the critical need for robust examination systems, transparent assessment practices, and effective grievance redressal mechanisms. The ramifications of these controversies extend far beyond mere administrative challenges, affecting the confidence and trust of students, parents, and educators in the education system's integrity and fairness."

Rajajinagar MLA S. Suresh Kumar, former Education Minister, criticised the handling of the 2024 SSLC examinations, citing a 30 per cent decrease in results compared to the previous year. He emphasised that the exam system lacked a comprehensive approach, neglecting students' mental well-being and resorting to mechanical processes. Kumar highlighted his efforts during his tenure to improve education quality, including the introduction of a continuous evaluation system. However, he expressed uncertainty regarding the current officials' continuation of these initiatives, stressing the need for special effort and political will for effective implementation. Kumar also mentioned measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic to prioritize education. In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, he urged a reevaluation of the examination system to address flaws and uphold educational standards.

Bright savings, but maintenance costs loom large

As BBMP sets sights on LED transition, projections indicate substantial energy savings. However, with maintenance expenses poised to double, the road to financial equilibrium appears challenging

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is hoping to revive its plan to replace sodium-vapour street bulbs with LED lights. The objective is to replace 5,00,000 sodium-vapour bulbs which consume much more energy in comparison to LEDs, potentially reducing the BBMP's electricity bill to Rs 86.31 crore.

This would be a three-fold decrease com-

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY



pared to when the streetlights operated with sodium-vapour bulbs. However, on the whole, BBMP would not be experiencing much of a financial gain as the maintenance of the streetlights will be on the expensive side. A baseline survey conducted across seven zones by the municipal body confirms their prediction of a potential decrease in their electricity bill after the implementation of LED lights.

The survey shows that in RR Nagar and

Dasarahalli, the current consumption is 909 lakh units, which is expected to fall to 302 lakh units with LED bulbs. Similar developments are anticipated in other zones like East and Bommanahalli, where energy consumption will drop to 346 lakh units from 877 lakh.

Mahadevapura was not considered for the survey despite being one of the eight zones of the BBMP as it already has the majority number of LED streetlights installed compared to the other zones.

Currently, the BBMP makes a payment of Rs 256 crore per annum as electricity charges and spends Rs 53.15 crore for repairs and maintenance of streetlights spanning across the city. If the move to LED bulbs is made, the electricity bill will come down to Rs 86.31 crore.

However, it is to be noted that the maintenance bill will shoot up to 95.59 crore, which is two times more than what the municipal body is currently spending. The project is expected to save the BBMP Rs 181 crore every year.

Has lake monitoring system gone bust?

Portal that is supposed to update number of lakes inspected daily and weekly, seems to be stuck in glitch



Citizens have often raise alarm about fishkills at various lakes in the city (file photo)

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The lake monitoring system platform launched with great fanfare has encountered a technical glitch. Irrespective of the month, the platform showcases the same set of numbers of inspections by BBMP, the maintenance agency for Kere Mitra.

The lake monitoring system platform was launched along with the citizen-involvement project Kere Mitra to create better accountability for lake maintenance. The portal that covers 199 lakes in the city was supposed to provide data on the number of lakes inspected and not inspected on a weekly and daily basis.

Categorising the 199 lakes zone-wise would also showcase the number of lakes in each zone. It would also showcase the number of inspections made by BBMP, the maintenance agency and Kere Mitra. When Bangalore Mirror tried to check the numbers on the website, it showcased specific numbers for each month. However, the numbers remained the same for each month.

For example, the total number of inspections by Kere Mitras remained at 16 irrespective of the month. The data set was replicated for upcoming months and on changing the year as well. It calls into question if the portal maintained by

the BBMP Lakes Department has stopped being updated or if the portal has started malfunctioning. The portal also was supposed to carry inspection reports made by Kere Mitras.

The Kere Mitras appointed for three months would monitor day-to-day maintenance activities such as pathway sweeping, weeding, inlet and outlet cleaning, and jungle clearance in the lake premises and enter the data on a digital application. They would also oversee works such as trimming, and watering of plants, and the maintenance undertaken by the horticulture department on lake premises.

Kere Mitras say they have been uploading through the special-access Kere Mitra website and have been approaching the officials directly.

Even before the official announcement of the Kere Mitra initiative by BBMP, lakes in Bengaluru are monitored by local activists and groups. They continue to perform their selfless tasks by directly coordinating with the officials.

"All Kere Mitras have been assigned access credentials to a platform. On this platform, we can log in our complaints. We can add photos along with locations and complaints. BBMP has also created a WhatsApp group for all the Kere Mitras and we also post complaints on the WhatsApp group. Many of the complaints registered on the platform get resolved and some are pending," said Poongothai Paramasivam, Kere Mitra of Subbaraya Kere (lake).

COMED-K test: 2 caught for using mobile to copy

During the undergraduate entrance test conducted by COMED-K, two candidates were apprehended for using mobile phones for malpractice. Gururaj R Bhat, Assistant Secretary of COMEDK, reported that the candidates' mobile devices were confiscated, and they were barred from continuing with the exam. Two exam centres experienced power outages, leading COMEDK authorities to compensate students by granting them extra time to complete the exam.

The COMEDK exam, aimed at filling 20,000 seats in approximately 150 engineering colleges across Karnataka, was

conducted in three sessions. The test took place in 191 cities across India, including 24 cities in Karnataka. Overall, 264 centres were used for the exam, including 72 centres in Karnataka and 33 in Bengaluru.

5-year-old killed as teen accidentally presses on car's pedal

A five-year-old boy died after a 15-year-old accidentally rammed a car that first collided with bikes and then careened into the boy playing nearby, in Murugesh Palya on the Old Airport Road, on Sunday.

Another child was also injured and rushed to a nearby hospital. The teenager, seated in the driver's seat, was assisting his father in washing the car, around 11 am, when he accidentally pressed the accelerator, causing the vehicle to lurch and strike the child. The victim, identified as Aarav, a UKG student, lost his life instantly. CCTV footage captured the event. The car involved bore a police sticker. The teen is the younger son of head constable Tamarai Kannan. The injured child, Dhanraj (5), is the son of Lokesh, a bank security guard based in Raichur. Authorities have initiated an investigation. **BMB**



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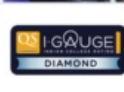
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NGT's scrutiny over pharmaceutical pollution

Notice issued to multiple state pollution boards as environmental concerns escalate

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The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the chief secretaries of Karnataka and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) regarding pharmaceutical-induced environmental contamination.

Apart from the KSPCB, notices have been sent to all state pollution control boards after the tribunal registered a suo moto case based on a recent research paper published in the journal Current Science.

Through these notices, the NGT has sought information such as the number of pharmaceutical companies in the state, the number of such companies complying with norms, the number of companies against whom action is taken for violation of the norms, and the action taken by the state pollution control board for preventing pharmaceutical toxicity in the environment.

The research paper underlines that pharmaceutical-induced environmental contamination needs urgent attention because around 43 per cent of global rivers face risks from Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). Moreover, the continuous emissions pose risks to the environment and human health. The paper also discloses that pharmacies sometimes cannot filter all the chemicals used in pharmaceutical production (e.g., solvents, and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)).

These chemicals cause ecosystem imbalances that give rise to chemical pollution in the environment. Disposal by healthcare institutions, drug manufacturing units, and



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Through the paper, researchers have highlighted that although the levels of chemicals in rivers & streams are relatively low compared to standard doses, there's a growing concern that prolonged exposure could result in health problems

domestic and agricultural use of drugs are some of the causes leading to pharmaceutical pollution.

Through the paper, researchers have highlighted that although the levels of these chemicals in rivers and streams are relatively low compared to standard doses, there is a growing concern that prolonged exposure could result in health problems.

"Chemicals in pharmaceuticals may mix with water or be flushed in the toilets after exiting the body. Mostly, municipal wastewater treatment plants do not fully eliminate these chemicals and impurities from drinking water, necessitating a combination of treatment methods. The potential synergistic effects of these compounds, particularly endocrine disruptors, pose risks to biological processes such as growth, development, reproduction, and hormonal control. Studies have raised alarms about the presence of these chemicals in surface water and groundwa-

ter since the 1990s," noted the research.

It also warns about bioaccumulation and the potential entry of certain chemical compounds into the food chain. Moreover, water contaminated by pharmaceutical compounds also impacts animals and wildlife. Researchers say sufficient resources should be allocated to public education initiatives around the appropriate and safe disposal of medications and bringing drugs under drug recovery programs.

In addition, more stringent regulations should be implemented to curb drug usage in numerous healthcare settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical facilities. The paper also highlights that one of the major causes of antimicrobial resistance in India is water contamination by antibiotics.

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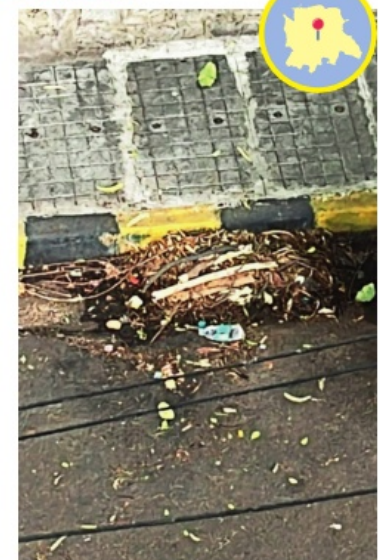
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Debris danger
Nandini Layout



Debris is very common in BHEL Colony, Nandini Layout. Additionally, dangerous debris can be found at Jai Maruthi Nagar Circle.

Garbage unattended
Jayanagar



The road has not been swept nor has the garbage been collected for a month. Despite my numerous complaints to BBMP, there has been no response.

Manhole menace strikes Thanisandra Road

KAUSHIK JN

Lack of coordination between BBMP & BWSSB leads to sewage overflow, damaging newly constructed walls

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) spent a lot of money to provide better infrastructure on Thanisandra Main Road. However, there was no coordination with the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to ensure that no sewage water entered the roadside drain, damaging the newly constructed compound wall and incurring a huge loss for the property owners.



Sewage overflowing onto the road

A manhole near Thanisandra Road, close to Purva Atmosphere Luxury Apartments, is choked, resulting in sewage overflow onto the road, which was recently white-topped. To avoid the nuisance of sewage overflowing onto the road, it is alleged that the authorities concerned fixed two six-inch pipes to the manhole to facilitate sewage flow

into the roadside drain. It is said that the authorities concerned did not take measures to fix the problem but made a temporary arrangement to avoid sewage overflowing onto the road.

The authorities did not anticipate that the temporary arrangement would cause a major problem for the people who bought residential sites from the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA). "I bought the site from the BDA and registered it recently. I constructed a compound wall at an estimated cost of Rs 1 lakh a few days ago. Now, it has collapsed due to the flow of rainwater and sewage water, causing a huge loss for me," said Najma Nazneen, a citizen. She said that she contacted the BDA engineer before buying the site to find out whether it comes under a water stream or a drain. "The BDA engineer wrote a letter to me stating that the site is free from a water

stream or a drain and there is no plan of having a drain that runs through the site in the future. Based on the BDA engineer's letter, I bought the site but now rainwater and sewage water continue to flow into my residential site," she added.

Sarosh, a resident of HRBR Layout, who owns a site on Thanisandra Road, said that he incurred a loss due to the flow of sewage and rainwater into his site. "I was making preparations for digging a borewell. I lost around Rs 60,000 due to dirty water flowing into my residential site and damage to the compound wall. I have lodged a complaint with the authorities," he said.

When informed, the BBMP engineer (major roads) said that he had already informed the BWSSB engineer about the clogged manhole. Meanwhile, BWSSB engineer Rajesh has assured to fix the problem as soon as possible.

Illegal establishments
Ulsoor



Numerous roadside eateries have illegally set shop near Ulsoor Lake, causing inconvenience to the public.

Bespoke cocktails, K-food & ghee to take centrestage

Find out what culinary landscape in 2024 will look like



In an ever-evolving culinary landscape, the theme of Provenance signifies the exploration and amplification of the depth and diversity of Indian cuisine, it not only connects us to the origins of our food but also highlights the need for sustainable practices that preserve our culinary heritage.

Godrej Vikhroli Cucina, a curated, brand-agnostic, owned media platform hosted a star-studded launch for the highly anticipated Godrej Food Trends Report 2024 at the glamorous Godrej L'Affaire 2024. The report, under the theme 'Provenance', explores the rich tapestry of India's food culture, delving into the diverse origins of ingredients and India's culinary practices.

Some key insights from the Godrej Foods Trends Report 2024 are: Authentic cuisine will drive travel experiences: Experts forecast that 92.3% of travellers will join Culinary site tours to enrich their travels through authentic culinary encounters

Bespoke cocktails will raise the bar: Experts reveal that dedicated menus around Indian-origin spirits will illuminate the bar scene in 2024 by 82.7%

Chocolate will become a sophisticated affair: Indian chocolatiers are increas-

ingly showcasing the unique nuances of Provenance by artfully combining locally grown, high-quality, cacao beans as experts report a 94.2% in artisanal chocolates.

K-food will become mainstream: Korean culture has been garnering a cult following, with its bold flavours and diverse dishes. Korean restaurants will see significant traction, with concepts like Teppanyaki, robata, and ramen becoming increasingly prevalent.

Ghee will rise again: From health-conscious millennials to flavour-driven foodies, ghee's natural goodness will have a renewed appeal by 84.6% as we take inspiration from culinary roots.

Women in food will be in the spotlight: 2024 will illuminate the pivotal role women have played in the culinary landscape of India. From regional custodians to food entrepreneurs, chefs, bartenders and brewers, women will finally get due recognition for their contribution to shaping Indian gastronomy.

"India's soft power is our cuisine and its sheer diversity, and the power of our history, plurality, and continuity. So, I am happy to see it finally valued for being authentic and unapologetically true to itself. For the longest time, we have been carpet-bombed with a generalized idea of Indian food defined by political boundaries. But whatever prism you use to break it down by, the context for regional cuisines will always be the geography, agriculture, climate, and culture of a place," shares Celebrity Chef Ajay Chopra. **IANS**

2024 will also be the year that will illuminate the pivotal role women have played in India's culinary landscape

SAY CHEERS AT HYATT CENTRIC

Hyatt Centric MG Road Bangalore Celebrates 6th Year Anniversary with Barmaid's Wednesday Evenings Extravaganza

Hyatt Centric MG Road Bangalore is set to mark its 6th year anniversary with a series of electrifying events. Among them, the highlight promises to be the Barmaid's Wednesday Evenings, taking place on the 15th, 22nd, and 29th of May, starting at 6 pm onwards.

This exclusive event, hosted at the open air Liquid Bar, will feature renowned celebrity bartender Divya Rawat, adding her signature flair to the evening's libations. Guests can anticipate a delightful fusion of expertly crafted cocktails served with a touch of glamour.

Adding to the allure of the evenings are the stellar DJ line-ups. On the 15th of May, DJ Sumaya will spin a vibrant mix of beats, followed by DJ Zaveria on the 22nd and DJ Rash on the 29th. Each DJ promises to elevate the ambiance, ensuring an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

Liquid Bar, nestled within Hyatt Centric MG Road Bangalore, provides the perfect backdrop for this celebration, with its chic decor and inviting atmosphere. It's a space where guests can unwind, socialize, and indulge in the finest beverages crafted by skilled mixologists.

As Hyatt Centric MG Road Bangalore commemorates six years of excellence, the Barmaid's Wednesday Evenings serve as a fitting tribute to the hotel's commitment to providing unforgettable experiences.



Whether you're a cocktail connoisseur, music enthusiast, or simply seeking a vibrant atmosphere, these evenings promise something for everyone.

Join us at Liquid Bar, Hyatt Centric MG Road Bangalore, for an unforgettable celebration of six years of hospitality, creativity, and innovation. Raise a glass to the past, present, and future, as we toast to many more years of unforgettable moments.

Contact number for reservations:
9591510193



Ignore signs... And they all fall down

With 652 tree/branch falls in 3 days of rain, seems there is no check on trees' health

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru has recorded at least 625 cases of uprooted trees and fallen branches in just three days of rain.

According to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), while 232 such incidents were registered during gusty wind and rainfall on Monday (May 6), 152 complaints were registered by the BBMP control room on May 8 (Wednesday). On May 9 (Thursday), Bengaluru logged 241 cases of fallen trees and branches.

Citizens say a proactive approach by the Forest Department could have prevented these large numbers of cases. A year-round periodic inspection of trees, followed by pruning and maintenance would have ensured fewer incidents.

Citizens from different parts of the city highlight the lack of such drives in their areas.

"There are two Ashoka trees in front of our home in Domlur. Branches of these trees are completely bent and should be removed for safety reasons. The trees have been in this situation for a few months," said a resident.

Another citizen from Hosakerehalli recounts how BBMP has been unresponsive for nearly a year in the case of a tree with sagging and dead tree branches in the area. The tree sustained damage during cyclonic weather a year ago.

"We raised the issue a year ago after we saw that the branch on top of a tree was in a dangerous position. It is a big branch and might cause damage to vehicles or people walking on the road. We followed up with a picture of the damaged tree. However, it is still in the same situation," said the resident.

City-based tree experts say



A tree was uprooted due to the rain near a rail underbridge at Hosakerehalli, on Saturday

“Trees, whose trunks, branches, and roots, have been compromised can fall and pose a danger to life and property

—Vijay Nishant, founder, Project Vruksha

BBMP's Deputy Conservator of Forest team should survey the city all year round and identify trees that must be pruned on time.

Since Forest Department officials are expected to have knowledge of the subject, they can assess which trees can pose danger during the rainy season.

"These large incidents could have been prevented if timely proactive action was taken. The DCF should focus on preventive action to prevent the falling of such a large number of trees," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

Some underline that citizens can assess the health of a tree and

inform the Forest Department so necessary measures can be taken to avoid any mishap.

Trees can be checked by citizens and issues can be brought up in ward committee meetings and the forest department can be apprised about trees' bad health.

What to look for?

Residents can inspect trees in their areas and look for signs such as dead or hanging branches, cavities or rotten wood along the trunk or major branches, cracks, or splits in the trunk if a tree's trunk has developed a strong lean, say experts.

"Locals can keep an eye on neighborhood trees' health by

assessing various aspects. Any kind of damage to roots, either naturally or while installing pavement or repairing sidewalks, unusual color or size of leaves, any visible fungi or insect, etc indicate the health of the tree has been affected. Most importantly, such trees, whose trunks, branches, and roots, have been compromised can fall and pose a danger to life and property. Citizens can apprise the department if they feel trees in their areas are posing danger," said Vijay Nishant, founder, Project Vruksha. He added, "There is a lack of coordination among various departments of the civic agency. The road infrastructure department should be penalised for mindlessly concretizing avenue trees up to the trunk. This is an offense under the Karnataka Tree (Preservation) Act. It is important that the area around the base of the tree is free for water to percolate."

Hemmadaga Camp with Forest dept

Poor management of Hemmadaga Nature Camp in Bhimgad Sanctuary over the last couple of years has now prompted the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) (Wildlife) of Karnataka Forest Department to ensure that it is handed over to the Forest Department from Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR).

In an order issued by PCCF (Wildlife) after obtaining the approval of the Head of Forest Force, the Chief Conservator of Forest, Belagavi Circle has been directed to take action.

This was after a proposal by a city-based wildlife conservationist, requesting that the operation and maintenance of Hemmadaga Nature Camp be taken back to the Forest Department with the involvement of Hemmadaga Eco Development Committee.

According to Giridhar Kulkarni, the wildlife conservationist, Hemmadaga Nature Camp was established for the dissemination of knowledge on the natural, cultural, and scientific values of the sanctuary. The camp played an important role in educating and creating awareness to the public while imparting the message of conservation through people participation, till the camp was handed over to JLR in 2021 with no clarity on sharing of revenue with Hemmadaga Eco Development Committee (EDC). "Hemmadaga Village Forest Committee was converted into Hemmadaga EDC to manage ecotourism activities, ensuring the welfare of the villagers through employment opportunities. However, the Nature Camp was handed over to the state-owned Jungle Lodges and Resorts in March 2021. Though the Nature Camp was handed over to the Jungle Lodges and Resorts, in the MoU, there was no mention of sharing revenue with the EDC. Thus, the committee has not received revenue since March 2021," said Kulkarni.

Experts say this is a welcome move as the success of any eco-tourism effort depends on the participation of local people. This move by the department would fulfill those criteria and will help boost eco-tourism in Belagavi District and Karnataka, overall, say wildlife conservationists.

"Since the ownership and maintenance lies with the Forest Department, now tourists can visit and stay in Hemmadaga Nature Camp at affordable prices too," added Kulkarni. —BMB

Social media victims

Dr. Nagalakshmi Chowdhary, the dynamic Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Women, recently shared an intriguing anecdote while inaugurating Cyber Cop at AMC institution. A man approached her, seeking help with harassment by a woman. However, since there was no provision for men's complaints at the women's commission, she advised him to approach the police instead. This incident sheds light on the rampant social media victimisation, where personal details become fodder for



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

abuse. Dr. Chowdhary's message is crystal clear: whether you're a man, woman, or child, refrain from sharing sensitive information or photos on social media. What seems innocent today could turn into a nightmare tomorrow if used for blackmail.

All's well

Within the BJP leadership, V Somanna and R Ashoka have a well-known history of discord. Somanna had previously voiced their differences publicly. Their rivalry even extended to competing for the position of Bengaluru district in charge minister, leading then-CM Basavaraj Bommai to retain the Bengaluru portfolio. Recently, when asked about their relationship, Somanna, alongside Ashoka, asserted that they were in

such close harmony that Somanna's son, Arun Somanna, now served as Ashoka's lieutenant.

Lawyer first



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah faced questioning from opposition leaders regarding

the Prajwal Revanna issue, with HD Kumaraswamy going as far as calling the SIT the Shivakumar Investigation Team. When pressed by journalists, Siddaramaiah clarified that DK Shivakumar had no involvement in the matter. He emphasised his legal background, reminding reporters that he was a lawyer before entering politics.

Million dollar question

The burning question on everyone's minds right now is: When will Prajwal Revanna return to India? Journalists recently pressed MLA GT Deve Gowda for an update on the MP's whereabouts. Deve Gowda responded, "We have cooperated fully with the SIT investigation and have already taken the step to suspend Prajwal from our party. However, as for when or where Prajwal will return to India, we are just as clueless as you are." —Sridhar Vivan

One cheat, many victims

After one person highlights con, many cases emerge involving same individual

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After a person highlighted on social media that they had been scammed by an individual, a series of complaints started emerging about the same person. According to data from the State Police, Karnataka has recorded 1,239 cases under cheating (Sec.417 to 420 IPC) in 2024.

Adding to this is the scams by this individual named Abhilash. A page on Instagram 'bridesofbangalore' first posted pictures of this person, claiming that "he scammed money by promising to take the



friend/follower and their family on a vacation but failed to provide any tickets, visas, or land package details by the travel date. He claimed the tickets didn't confirm due to various

reasons and assured a full refund, but then disappeared."

After the post received traction on social media, several other people commented saying that the man had scammed them or their friends well.

One of the victims, a 36-year-old woman, a resident of Vinayaka Layout, told BM that she has lost about Rs 1 crore to this person.

"At first he became a friend. And would be a frequent visitor. He maintained a posh lifestyle and it felt like he had a lot of money and connections. We started a business together and I was the major investor. I didn't mind much initially when he started asking for money saying that he had an emergency, because he would re-

"He maintained a posh lifestyle and it felt like he had a lot of money and connections. We started a business together" —One of the victims

turn small amounts now and then. Later, it seemed like he vanished with Rs 1 crore that he borrowed from me," she said.

The victim then filed a complaint at the Sampige Halli Police Station in 2023.

"Recently, while I was scrolling through Instagram, I saw a post where his photo was there and sev-

eral people tagged Bengaluru Police and complained that he had defrauded them as well," she added.

Another citizen, Sandeep who also got conned of Rs 40 lakh by the same person says that the accused promised him to get his company funding from Dubai.

"I later realised that he made many fake businesses and his only profession was to defraud people. More than the financial loss that I went through, it's the mental torture of being cheated that is more troubling. After meeting people who have been scammed by him, I noticed that he has been doing this for more than a decade where he would target upper middle class people and become friends with them, only to rob them later," he said.

Many victims of the individual are now coming out on social media to talk about their case. While some got cheated by the fake company that the accused made up, others became friends with him and lent him crores of rupees.

'Trinayani' actress Pavitra Jayaram dies in car crash



bubnagar in Andhra Pradesh.

The car lost control and hit the divider. Later, the bus coming from Hyderabad to Vanaparthy collided with the right side of the car. Pavitra was seriously injured in the accident and died on the spot. The accident occurred while returning to Hanakere in Mandya district of Karnataka. As per media reports, Pavitra's cousin Apeksha, driver Srikanth and actor Chandrakanth were seriously injured in the incident.

The accident has shocked the entertainment industry. Further details on the case are awaited from the police.

Actress Pavitra Jayaram, who essayed the role of Thilottama in the hit Telugu television series 'Trinayani' passed away in a road accident on Sunday.

She died on the spot in a horrific car crash near Maha-

Actor Sameep Acharyya mourned the actress's demise as he took to social media to express his sorrow. He wrote, "Woke up to the news that you are no more. It's unbelievable. My first on-screen mother, you will always be the special one." —IANS

Starry date in city

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli, who are currently in Bengaluru, took some time out for each other and recently went on a date.

Several inside pictures of 'Virushka' from a restaurant in the city are going viral on social media.

One of the fan pages of the couple treated fans with pictures of Anushka and Virat.

In one of the pictures, Anushka can be seen resting her arm on Virat's shoulder as they pose with a few people. ANI

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Total No. of Student's Appeared 198		

94.44% Results

Sanket B. 600/625 - 96.0%	Srinivas T. 589/625 - 94.24%	Ambika M. 588/625 - 94.08%	Sainath C. 587/625 - 93.92%	Shrangouda T. 585/625 - 93.6%	Sagar L. 584/625 - 93.44%	Sangeeta R. 576/625 - 92.16%	Shruti S. 567/625 - 90.72%
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No space to park? Just park on footpath

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there seems to be no effect on the ground. According to BBMP Budget 2023-2024, for road repairs, drainage desilting, pavement repairs and other maintenance works, Rs 75 lakh were allocated to each ward. Out of the Rs 75 lakh, Rs 25 lakh was allocated for footpath maintenance alone. Additionally, Rs 125 lakh was allocated for each ward to be given for other civil works of the ward.

In total, nearly Rs 2 crore per ward was to be released for each of the 243 wards of BBMP.

However, BBMP officials complain

about the lack of funds to take up footpath work, civic activists said.

"Whenever we ask BBMP officials to take up footpath work, they complain about lack of funds. Ever since the formation of the new government, we have been hearing the same excuse for any civic work. The process of getting civic work executed has become very convoluted and we need to address the need for decentralisation," said Sandeep Anirudhan, Founder of Namma Whitefield.

Experts opine that implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act that allows for decentralised working of urban local

bodies could be the solution.

"In some parts of Whitefield, we have wide footpaths that are occupied by vendors. But in most places, there is no footpath and people have to walk on the roads. This is the state of footpaths in the highest tax-paying area of Bengaluru. Once the traffic flow increases, BBMP widens the roads and then the stormwater drain is covered with slabs and converted to footpaths. These slabs are a health hazard as well as a safety risk. Once covered, one can never see the mess inside and the slabs keep breaking and leaving gaping holes in footpaths. The answer to the problem is

decentralisation as per the 74th amendment and creating space for decision making on ward-level," he added.

R Rajagopalan of Bengaluru residents' welfare association opined that commercial buildings are covering parking spaces with rental spaces and parking is overflowing onto roads. "We have asked both traffic officials and BBMP to take action regarding footpath encroachment but there has been no action. Eviction drives were conducted nearly a year and a half ago. Vehicles are being parked on the footpath and commercial activities are being carried out. The root prob-

lem of the footpath issue is two-wheeler parking and street vendors. But there has not been any progress on street vending zones either," he added.

"Commercial buildings that have parking spaces are covered into marriage halls, warehouses etc forcing the parking to overflow onto streets," he added.

Civic activists also add that the majority of wider footpaths remain under major roads and do not fall under ward-level engineers. "Another problem with footpath maintenance is that the wider footpaths fall under contractors of major roads and cannot be handled by ward engineers. Only side drain-covered footpaths are under the purview of ward engineers," he added.

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I, P Anusha W/o Manikandan Mahadevan R/o No 4 Postal Colony 1st Main Sanjaynagar Bengaluru Karnataka 560094 have Changed my name to ANUSHA MANIKANDAN Vide Affidavit Dated: 07/05/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, Savali Sachin Bhat D/o Ayesha Fayaz Shaikh R/o No N22 DLF Woodland Heights Jigini Anekal Bengaluru 562106 have Changed my name to AAYAT FAYAZ SHAIKH Vide Affidavit Dated: 07/05/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

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I, THOUSEEF AFTAB, R/o #E-103, Mantri Elegance NS Palya Bannerghatta Road Bengaluru 560076 have changed my name to AHMED THOUSEEF AFTAB vide affidavit dated: 29/04/2024 before notary K V Mani B'lore

I, Rintumul Denny D/o Peethambar MG R/o Rohan Upavan, flat no.402, J-block, Avalahalli, Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077 have changed my name to Rintumul Mulluvengapurath Peethambar for all purposes.

TENDER NOTICE

BENGALURU AIRPORT SERVICES LTD. (BASL) welcomes our existing & potential new supplier partners for annual tendering of following categories of items to be supplied @ Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport for the period of 01-06-2024 till 31-05-2025. Last Day to submit the Tender Form is 24-05-2024.

Method of submission of Tender Form :

- Interested vendor can contact us by sending email to basltender@baslservices.com to get the Tender Request Form (TRF) for the interested category of item. Vendor needs to pay @INR 1000/- per Tender Application Form for each category. Payment can be done as per the QR code shared in the TRF.
- On receipt of filled TRF & payment advise with reference UPI/UTR no., Tender Form will be mailed to the vendor by BASL.
- Vendor has to submit the filled Tender Form on or before 24-05-2024 by email only to tendersubmission@baslservices.com. If the Tender Form is submitted to any other mail id, then it will be considered as disqualified.
- The Purchase Committee of BASL reserves the right to accept/reject the tenders in full or in part without assigning any reason whatsoever. BASL Purchase committee shall have the option to extend the closing date of tender if it should deem required for any or all categories.

S.NO.	CATEGORIES	S.NO.	CATEGORIES
1	DAIRY	9	ICE-CREAM
2	INDIAN & IMP CHEESE	10	INDIAN GROCERIES
3	INDIAN VEGETABLES	11	DRY-FRUITS
4	EXOTIC VEGETABLES	12	CHAAT FARSEN & NAMKEEN
5	WHOLE FRUITS	13	IMPORTED GROCERIES
6	POULTRY	14	IDLY/DOSA/VADA BATTER
7	EGG	15	HOUSEKEEPING & STATIONERY
8	FROZEN FOODS-COLD CUTS (VEG & NON-VEG)		

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QUICK TIPS



Why you should never take nutrition advice from a centenarian

It's a cliché of reporting on people who reach 100 years of age, or even 110, to ask them some variation of the question: "What did you do to live this long?"

Inevitably, some interesting and unexpected answer is highlighted. Fish and chips every Friday. Drinking a glass of strong liquor every day. Bacon for breakfast every morning. Wine and chocolate.

While a popular news story, this is a relatively meaningless question that doesn't help us understand why certain people have lived so long. Let me try to

explain why, via beautiful buildings, fighter pilots and statistics.

In the second world war, Allied statisticians were applying their skills to minimising the number of bombers being shot down by enemy fire. By studying the damage patterns of bombers returning from action, maps could be drawn up of the most frequently damaged parts of aeroplanes so that expensive, heavy armour could be added to these areas.

Wald who argues for the exact opposite point. The planes that they're studying are all those that did return from combat with extensive damage, but what about those that didn't return?

Wald argues that armour should be added to those places that are undamaged on all the returning planes, as any plane hit in these undamaged areas was shot down, never making it back to be surveyed.

Survivorship bias

This phenomenon is known as

survivorship bias, or the cognitive and statistical bias introduced by only counting those that are around to count but ignoring those that haven't "survived".

You can take these examples to the absurd. Imagine a group of 100 people, all of whom have smoked their entire life. As a group, the smokers would die earlier of cancers, lung disease or heart disease, but one or two might defy the odds and live to 100 years of age.

Now imagine the intrepid journalist interviewing the lucky soul on their 100th birthday with that classic question: "What do you attribute your successful ageing to?"

"Smoking a pack a day," says the newly minted centenarian.

It seems obvious but survivorship bias is everywhere in

Survivorship bias is the cognitive and statistical bias introduced by only counting those that are around to count but ignoring those that haven't 'survived'

society. We can all think of that one famous actor or entrepreneur who succeeded despite adversity, who worked hard, believed in themselves and one day made it. But we never read about or hear about the countless examples of people who tried, gave it their all and never quite made it.

That's not a good media story. But this creates a bias, we primarily hear the successes, never the failures. This bias applies to our perceptions of architecture (mostly great buildings from a given period "survive"), to finances (we often hear examples of people who have succeeded in risky investments, those who fail don't sell books or self-help plans) and to career plans ("If you work hard, and drop out of college now, you can be a successful athlete like me," say those who have succeeded).

I work with a variety of older people and often include extreme outliers who have lived to extreme ages. We're currently studying over 65-year-olds who have maintained unusually high levels of exercise into older age and have maintained excellent health.

They're phenomenal examples of older humans, many of them are faster, fitter and stronger than me by many of the measures we perform in the lab, despite being almost twice my age.

While we know that their lifelong exercise is associated with their unusually good health into older age, we can't directly say one causes the other yet. It could be that highly active people are protected against chronic diseases such as cancers, diabetes and heart disease. But it also could be that these people are still active into older age as they've not been afflicted by cancers, diabetes or heart disease earlier in their lives.

Conversely, there could be some unknown third factor that we've not yet identified about these people that both keeps them healthy and separately keeps them exercising.

For clarity, there are things that scientists like me will say in carefully caveated, scientific language that will probably help you to live longer. Being very physically active, not eating too much and not smoking are all on that list, along with generally having a positive outlook in life, and of course, picking the right parents and grandparents.

Correlation does not equal causation. That point is hammered home relentlessly to students in science degrees. It's how our brain works, we see a pattern between two variables, and assume they're linked in some way. But often, like in survivorship bias, we're not looking at all the data, and so finding patterns where there are none.

(By Bradley Elliott, University of Westminster, *The Conversation*)



All you need to know about...

Turmeric for skin

Adds glow

Turmeric contains curcumin, which is known to have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. These properties can help reduce inflammation and protect skin cells from damage caused by free radicals. By doing so, it can help brighten and add a natural glow to the skin.

Helps psoriasis

Psoriasis is a chronic skin condition that causes red, scaly patches on the skin. The anti-inflammatory properties of turmeric can help reduce the inflammation and redness associated with psoriasis.

Treats acne

The antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties of turmeric can help reduce acne breakouts. It can help control the excess oil production, reduce inflammation and fight off acne-causing bacteria.

Heal wounds

Turmeric has been traditionally used as an antiseptic to treat wounds and cuts. It exhibits great promise as a therapeutic agent. Its anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties can help prevent infection and speed up the healing process.

Dark circles

Dark circles refer to a symptom that presents darkness under the eyes. The anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties of turmeric can help reduce dark circles under the eyes. You can make a turmeric eye mask with honey or aloe vera gel and apply it under your eyes for 10-15 minutes. This can help reduce puffiness and dark circles.

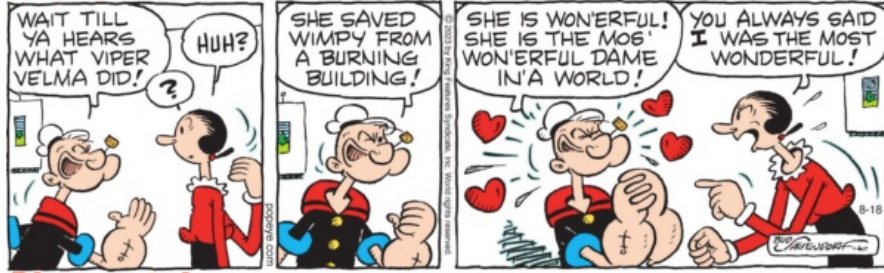
Reducing stretch marks

Stretch marks are one of the most common benign cutaneous lesions and encountered esthetic problems.[12] Stretch marks can be difficult to treat. However, the anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties of turmeric can help reduce the appearance of stretch marks.

—Femina

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, since morning, you may experience some peace of mind. You are not in a hurry today, which may reflect in your way of working. Your destiny may help you complete your postponed projects and targets. You may show patience in your domestic life to maintain harmony. However, you may experience some skin and stomach-related issues.

Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

You may be happy due to blessings from auspicious planetary combinations. You may have energy that enhances your prestige among people around you. Spend your time studying intellectual subjects.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may feel happier, and internal vitality will boost your self-confidence. Avoid carelessness in financial, professional, and educational decisions. Enjoy romantic moments with your spouse but remain patient to avoid conflicts.

Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you may be a victim of negative thoughts and feel dull. Impatience and arrogance may hinder you from making difficult decisions. Seeking blessings from elders may help you grow in your work. Avoid making investments in dead assets, and love birds should avoid discussing bad moments.

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

The day may start dull, but negativity may subside by late evening. New people may connect with you on the work front. With their help, you may revamp your business plans. Ensure to read documents before signing them.

Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Your tendency to overspend may affect your savings. Be cautious in expressing yourself at work and home. Avoid lending money and postpone important decisions regarding real estate. Don't shy away from responsibilities.

Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today is good for your work, and you may perform well. Your boss may give you new responsibilities in terms of promotion. Disputes with your partner may be settled down. You may lend money to make assets, and your kid's health may improve. Investments for your kid's future may be on the cards.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, with blessings, you may overcome indecisiveness. Kids' health may improve, and colleagues may be supportive at work. Expect incentives along with the salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, home-making, art, and culture may excel.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

With a strong network, you may implement your business plans and gain profits. Harmony in domestic life is likely, with good understanding between you and your spouse. Natives related to metal and booking agents may prosper.

Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may be blessed by the moon, and love may be in the air in your personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. Professional life may be promising, with support from friends and subordinate staff. Investments in gems and jewellery may yield positive gains. Be careful about elders' health.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may be busy with domestic issues and may show interest in artefacts, movies, and fashion, enhancing your creativity. Spending on household items may improve your social status. Be polite with others and plan a family or friends' trip.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may be passionate about work, but avoid mixing emotions with important decisions. Follow your intuition before making business, job, and investment decisions. Elders' blessings may help you manage your workload effectively.

KIDZONE



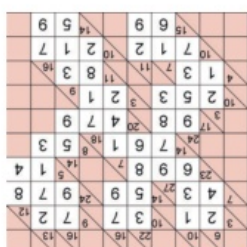
Sannidhi AS, 8 years, VELS Global School



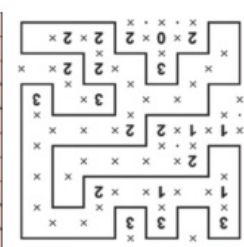
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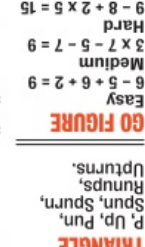
SOLUTIONS



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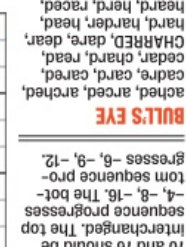
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



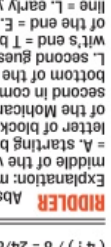
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



QUOTE UNQUOTE



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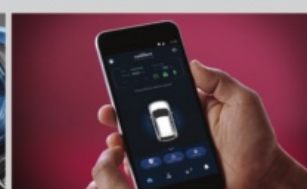
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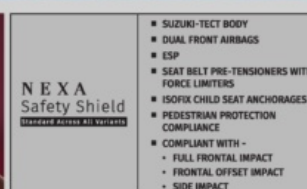
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